Docket No.: 1254-0268PUS1

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Yutaka INOUE et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP2003/008563

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: February 3, 2005

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: INVERTER CIRCUIT, FLUORESCENT TUBE

LIGHTING APPARATUS, BACKLIGHT APPARATUS, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL

DISPLAY

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.